

about their research projects for inclusion on the database. In return we will be able to provide the information they need when beginning a new research project. Obviously we would like to have all research recorded on the database so that we can provide an extremely useful research tool for researchers in the social sciences. We are working closely with librarians, who are in general very willing to provide us with citations or input sheets of information published or otherwise circulated by their organisation.

Further information about SOSRIS, input sheets and order forms for *New Zealand Social Research Abstracts*, can be obtained from Judy Owen, SOSRIS, Collection Management, National Library of New Zealand, Private Bag, Wellington.

## Access to information

In a statement entitled 'Scholarship, research, and access to information', the Council on Library Resources draws attention to the radical changes which have occurred recently in the organisation and operation of academic and research libraries. Economic realities and the advent of computer and telecommunications technology have made libraries much more complex organisations, encouraged institutional co-operation and fostered the rapid growth of the information industry. But these same changes have also brought potential problems affecting access to information which must be resolved if the full benefits of innovation are to be realised.

The Council identifies three matters of major concern in the United States. The first relates to certain restrictive practices followed by a few commercial and non-profit database producers and suppliers serving the academic research community. Asserting that research and scholarship require unrestricted access to information, the Council opposes limited or conditional access to bibliographic records or information about information in any form. Secondly, the Council urges that attention must continue to be given to those aspects of culture and learning that remain important but are perhaps un-

fashionable from a commercial point of view. Claiming that 'there is too often a tendency to assume exact correlation between the economic value of information and its intrinsic worth', the statement warns of the dangers of uncritical adherence to the concept of information as a commodity and observes that the marketplace alone cannot define the information needs of society. Finally, the Council acknowledges the growth of new and deeper affiliations among libraries and their parent institutions and points to the effects of these developments on access to information. Such activities as co-operative collecting and preservation are seen to imply an end to institutional parochialism. For as 'individual libraries become, to varying degrees, components of "the nation's library," the nation's scholars become their users.'

The statement issued in January 1985 by the Board of Directors of the Council on Library Resources does not claim to provide simple answers or absolute prescriptions to ensure unrestricted access to information. Rather, it is presented as a reassertion of an old principle which requires special attention at this time. The following set of observations illustrates the complexity of the question which the statement addresses:

All information is not the same; the uncritical homogenization of the term is probably a source of much difficulty. Publishing, producing, and distributing information involves costs that must somehow be met. The value of information often changes with use, time, and form. Unconstrained access does not imply cost-free information any more than free information assures accessibility. The information society is in part a state of mind, characterized by shifting needs and methods. Increasingly, it is also becoming a set of established systems that bring risks of constraints along with promises of efficiency. For this very reason, there is a great need to establish the principles and set the conditions under which information will be made accessible. It is the shaping of those principles, both the process and the substance, that is at the heart of our problem.

## Reviews

### Early New Zealand newspapers

D. R. Harvey. *Union List of New Zealand Newspapers before 1940 Preserved in Libraries, Newspaper Offices, Local Authority Offices and Museums in New Zealand*. Wellington: National Library of New Zealand, 1985. 158 pp. \$20.00 (\$25.00 overseas) ISBN 0-477-06044-7; \$10.00 (\$12.00 overseas) ISBN 0-477-06045-5 (microfiche)

Several years ago while researching the history of a small rural district near Dannevirke I sought access to the local newspaper, the *Bush* (later *Dannevirke Advocate* (1888-1912). An approach to the Dannevirke Public Library, which held the most complete run, was met with an uncompromising insistence that the newspapers were not available: their condition was too poor, I was told, for any

use prior to their being microfilmed by the National Library. A similar response was also met at the Dannevirke Publishing Company, the only other institution with a substantial holding of that newspaper. I had no alternative but to delay my research.

This unhappy experience brought home to me the value of microfilming both as an aid to the researcher and as a contribution to the preservation of our national heritage. With the originals in poor condition, through often careless handling and the insidious effect of chemical decomposition, and often located in awkwardly situated or distant repositories, the taking of copies could only be to the advantage of researchers — and a relief to hard-pressed librarians. The National Library's efforts in this field in recent years are therefore to be com-

mended. The Trustees of the National Library commissioned a survey of the physical condition of newspapers in non-private hands in order to establish priorities and some of those in the poorest condition, including the *Bush Advocate*, have been microfilmed. It is to be hoped that difficult and contentious issues that have arisen, especially over the fate of original newspapers once microfilmed, can be resolved quickly and satisfactorily to allow continued progress in this task, rightly described by the National Librarian as 'an important contribution to the preservation of essential historical research resource material'.

One of the spin-offs of the National Library's microfilm programme is this excellent compilation by D. R. Harvey, based on the survey which was conducted in 1983 but omitting technical details



about the physical condition of the newspapers. Although not the first listing of newspaper holdings — there were previous, now out of print, efforts in 1938 and 1961 — it is a comprehensive and up-to-date record of holdings of 164 institutions, ranging from major libraries and publishing companies to small local historical societies. Harvey provides dates of first and last issue where known, place of publisher, previous titles, frequency, indexes and the location of original and microfilm copies. There can be no doubt that this data will be of lasting value to librarians and researchers.

The compilation highlights the importance of newspapers as a source of New Zealand history. Every community, it seems, had its local newspaper or newspapers, often serving a wide rural area. As a record of contemporary concerns, both national and local, the newspapers provide an insight into those communities, of value to political, social and especially local historians. For the rural district in which I was interested, the *Bush Advocate* proved the vital source (when the microfilm became available) for a community which did not leave much in the way of written records. Much could be gleaned from news items, reports from local correspondents, coverage of court cases, even gossip.

Harvey's *List* brings home the amount of New Zealand's early newspaper record that has already been lost. In the case of the *Bush Advocate* there is a gap of seven years in the run from 1894-1900. Some newspapers exist only in fragmentary form, for example, the *Canterbury Argus* (one issue) and the *Karangahake Goldfield's Advocate* (two issues only).

Although of great value, Harvey's listing is not complete; nor does it profess to be. He explains that private holdings, even where 'unique and extensive', are not included; the same applies to overseas holdings of New Zealand newspapers. It is therefore encouraging to note the National Librarian's comment in his foreword that this is an 'intermediate step' and that further progress can be anticipated in the next few years in identifying and assessing the condition of our early newspapers.

I. C. McGibbon  
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## Library service to children

*Kids and Libraries: Selections from Emergency Librarian.* Edited by Ken Haycock and Carol-Ann Haycock. Vancouver: Dyad Services, 1984. 229 pp. C\$25.00. ISBN 0-920175-00-7

*Kids and Libraries* is a collection of more than 60 articles and editorials from the lively and very useful Canadian journal, *Emergency Librarian*. Ken and Carol-Ann Haycock, co-editors of this journal, and themselves both experienced teacher-librarians, selected the articles for this book. Both are keen advocates of good library service to children and young people and in a very real sense this compendium is a powerful statement of their views and advocacy. Its publication is timely here, where at present discussions are taking place between library

educators, administrators and policy makers, and representatives of teacher organisations — their goal, in line with government policy, being the establishment of the first New Zealand professional training course for teacher-librarians. We should see the first trainees in schools in 1986.

Thus, this is a timely publication for us in New Zealand: it is a book that anyone interested in library services for children and young people should not miss.

It is a well organised and wide-ranging publication: cohesion is achieved through the sensible arrangement of items into key topics, including professional roles and responsibilities, services — both in the public library and the school, services for disabled youngsters, the law and young people, programme advocacy — and much more. The articles have been written by a varied group of experienced library people, mainly Canadian, and include academics, publishers, teacher-librarians and even a puppeteer!

Most of the articles are clearly written and focused well argued pieces. I particularly liked Ken Haycock's account of the school librarian as a professional teacher. Such a person, he claims, will need considerable classroom experience, ability in curriculum planning, the ability to work in a team and even to take a leadership role when necessary, and should be able to enthuse his or her principal and staff about library affairs. A super-person, indeed... Haycock then helpfully provides an annotated checklist of skills a working teacher-librarian needs to acquire. While many of these are not unexpected they deserve restatement at this critical time in our own library development.

Haycock looks for people who are able to promote the multi-media library and its resources in the school and the community outside. These people also need wide-ranging book selection skills, to be competent at the selection of other media, the promotion of reading throughout the school and the provision of relevant information services, according to the particular needs of their school.

This all sounds an excellent basis for the development of a serviceable training course in New Zealand. Planners, take notice, please...

I also enjoyed Ronald Jobe's article 'Teacher-librarian collegiality: strategies for effective influence'. He writes that teacher-librarians need to be self-reliant, experienced teachers — 'Be secure in yourself and be assertive about your professional privileges and responsibilities'. Don't be afraid to put your ideas forward, he seems to be suggesting, particularly in the crucial area of curriculum planning and implementation where the exercise of your skill is most valuable.

Bev Anderson's article on Canadian school libraries — 'definitely worth their keep' — was another useful piece of consciousness raising for those of us who work for and with children. It is full of helpful information from current Canadian experience and it relates well to the situation in New Zealand today.

*Kids and Libraries* is a stimulating and informative compendium. Many of the ideas it cites (and some of the problems too) are highly relevant (and sadly familiar) but the suggestions, the breadth of

vision about library services to the young and the many practical suggestions it offers, are most valuable. A book which deserves the widest circulation among interested groups — librarians, teachers, parents and administrators.

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## Research and bibliography

*Union List of Higher Degree Theses in New Zealand Libraries.* Supplement no. 6: 1979-1982. Compiled by John Cochrane. Wellington: New Zealand Library Association, 1984. 212 pp. \$39.50 (\$29.62 to NZLA members). ISBN 0-908560-15-X

*Bibliographical Work in New Zealand, 1984: Work in Progress and Work Published.* Compiled by A.P.U. Millett and F.T.H. Cole. [Hamilton]: University of Waikato Library, 1984. 36 pp. Gratis. ISSN 0111-2953

When the original edition of the *Union List of Theses of the University of New Zealand* was published by the NZLA in 1956, it was reviewed in *New Zealand Libraries* for March-April 1957: the writer began by praising the bibliographical work initiated within the Library of the University of Otago. This tradition has been maintained during the intervening years, and now we have John Cochrane's sixth supplement covering the period 1979-1982. The original *Union List*, grateful as all librarians were for it when it appeared, was a simple — even primitive — publication. The supplements have become increasingly more sophisticated; a subject index was included in the 1963-1967 supplement, and the subject

## Notes on Contributors

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Katherine Dunlop has been Manager of the Library and Information Service at Fisher & Paykel in Auckland since November 1984. Formerly an information officer in the Information Service at Alex Harvey Industries Ltd., she has also worked in the Information Centre of Coopers and Lybrand, London, and at the University of Waikato.